

Spring 8-15-2013

ENG 3406-001: Literature for Pre-Adolescents

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3406-001

English 3406-001

Literature for Pre-Adolescents

TR 2:00-3:15 CH3609

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Office Hours: TR9:30-11:00; 12:30-2:00 & by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the diverse and ever-increasing body of literature that occupies a loosely defined zone between children's and young adult literature and is read by, written for, and/or deemed appropriate for that group designated variously as middle-schoolers, tweens or pre-adolescents. (Ages 8-12? 9-13? Grades 4-8) We will examine a rich variety of literature, both old and new, in such traditional genres as the novel, short fiction and poetry. Students will also be given the opportunity to explore newer, hybrid and experimental genres such as the comic book and graphic novels as well as works of dystopian science fiction, historical realism and romance, horror, and both comic and epic fantasy. Our discussions and writing will, among other things, explore social/historical contexts for the literature, examine questions of ideology, authority and censorship, race and gender representation, pedagogical approaches and current scholarly criticism. Students will write several short projects in such forms as book reviews and annotated bibliographies in addition to one longer and fully developed academic essay employing scholarly research.

TEXTS

John Griffith & Charles Frey, *Classics of Children's Literature*, 4th Edition

Brian Selznick, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

Terry Pratchett, *The Wee Free Men*

Lynne Reid Banks, *The Indian in the Cupboard*

Roald Dahl, *The Witches*

Christopher Paul Curtis, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*

Mary Norton, *The Borrowers*

Philip Pullman, *I Was a Rat*

Neil Gaiman, *Coroline*

Shannon Hale and Dean Hale, *Rapunzel's Revenge*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Discussion: Active and consistent contribution to class discussion. (Needless to say, attendance is required and will affect your grade. You can't contribute to class discussion if you're not there)

Reading: You are expected to have all reading assignments done by day we'll begin discussing them. Keep up. Try to read ahead. If it looks like you are not doing the reading, I will have to implement reading quizzes the results of which will count as half of your final grade.

Writing: One book review (6-8 pages) of pertinent material not on the syllabus. A final piece of researched writing (10-12 pages; topic possibilities to be announced). An annotated bibliography to precede the writing of this final paper (At least 15 entries). A final essay exam.

Presentation: During the final weeks of class, you will be responsible for orally presenting an abbreviated version of your final paper.

GRADES

Grades for the following count equally and will be averaged to determine the final course grade:

- 1) One book review, 2) Annotated bibliography, 3) Final paper 4) Final essay exam, 5) Presentation, 6) Class attendance and participation.

Grading is on a four point scale: A 4.0-3.6; B 3.5-2.5; C 2.4-1.4; D 1.3- 0.3; F 0.2-0.0.

Week I Aug 20-22 Introduction to the course. Problems of defining "pre-adolescent literature," What do "pre-adolescents" read and why? What did you read between the ages of 9-13?

Readings I: Classics

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (In Griffith & Frey)

Week II Aug 27-29

Lewis Carroll continued

Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (In Griffith & Frey)

Week III Sept 3-5

Mark Twain continued

Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden* (In Griffith & Frey)

Week IV Sept 10-12

Frances Hodgson Burnett continued

Readings II: A Major Theme—Miniature People

Mary Norton, *The Borrowers*

Week V Sept 17-19

Mary Norton continued

Week VI Sept 24-26

Lynne Reid Banks, *The Indian in the Cupboard*

Week VII Oct 1-3

Terry Pratchett, *The Wee Free Men*

Readings III: The Fun of Fear

Week VIII Oct 8-10

Roald Dahl, *The Witches*

Week IX Oct 15-17

Neil Gaiman, *Coroline*

Readings IV: Modern Realism

Week X Oct 22-24

Christopher Paul Curtis, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*

Readings V: Words and Pictures

Brian Selznick, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

Readings VI: Re-worked Tales

Week XI Oct 29-31

Shannon Halle & Dean Hale, *Rapunzel's Revenge*

Week XII Nov 5-7

Philip Pullman, *I Was a Rat*

Week XIII Nov 12-14

Group Presentations

Week XIV Nov 19-21

Group Presentations

Nov 26-28 Thanksgiving Break

Week XV Dec 3-5

Group Presentations

Final Papers Due (Dec 5)

Policies, Rules, Regulations

- 1.) Late Work: No late work will be accepted unless you have made acceptable arrangements with me BEFORE the due date. "Before" means at least 24 hour notice.
- 2.) **You must complete all major assignments to pass the course.**
- 3.) Attendance: Obviously required. Four *un*-excused absences will result in the loss of half a letter grade, eight un-excused absences will result in loss of a whole letter grade, ten unexcused absences result in loss of one and one-half letter grades. If you accumulate more than ten absences, excused or not, you should consider dropping the course since you will have missed roughly a third or more of the semester and shouldn't expect anything better than a D should you remain in the class. If you need to miss class due to illness, a university event or other legitimately excusable reason, you should notify me as soon as possible and be prepared to provide documentation of the situation. (Otherwise I won't be able to keep track of how often your grandmother dies).
- 4.) Paper Grading: Since this is a junior-level college course, I must assume an advanced command of writing mechanics/grammar, and acceptable usage. Ten or more errors in these areas within the first two pages of a paper means I stop reading and the paper gets a D.
- 5.) Plagiarism: English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course." In less severe forms plagiarism may involve problematic citations and paraphrases that, though they suggest honest attempts to satisfy academic standards, will require revision before a grade can be assigned. Until documentation is corrected, the assignment's grade will remain a zero. **NOTE: Consultants at The Writing Center** can help you with the mechanics of correct quotation, paraphrase, summary, and citation of primary and secondary sources. They will also be happy to work with you on any other writing difficulties that may be threatening the acceptability of your work. Call for an appointment (581-5929) or drop in (CH3110) and be sure to bring materials – assignment sheet, drafts, copies of sources – with you. The Writing

Center's hours are Monday through Thursday 9 am – 3 pm & 6—9 pm, and 9 am – 1 pm Fridays.

- 6.) MLA Style: Use MLA (Modern Language Association) style for the layout of your paper and for the documentation on your Works Cited page, and for the in-text citations referring readers to this list.
- 7.) Disabilities: Students with documented disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible so we can work out appropriate accommodations.
- 8.) Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should provide each of their English department professors with the yellow form: "Application for English Department Approval to Student Teach." These are available in a rack outside the office of Dr. Donna Binns (CH3851). The sooner you get these to your professors the better.